

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYTS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USUNMISSION NEW YORK 1536

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: PFOR CH KN KS

SUBJECT: KIM IL-SUNG VISIT TO PEKING

1. ROK PRESS APRIL 24-25 RAN STORY, BASED ON COMMENTS BY "SOURCE CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT," SPECULATING THAT OBJECT OF KIM IL-SUNG TRIP TO PEKING IS TO GET PRC ACQUIESCENCE IN "WHATEVER PROVOCATIONS PYONGYANG MAY WAGE AGAINST SOUTH KOREA." ARTICLE, WHICH WAS TOP STORY IN THREE OF FOUR MORNING PAPERS RAN UNDER LARGE HEADLINES ANNOUNCING "PEKING CONNIVANCE SOUTH FOR INVASION".

2. CITING SOURCE, ARTICLE SAID THAT ROKG EVALUATION OF KIM TRIP CONCLUDES THAT "VISIT IS DESIGNED TO ENLIST CHINA'S ACQUIESCENCE RATHER THAN SEEKING ANY MILITARY AID AS NORTH KOREA HAS ALREADY COMPLETED WASR PREPARATIONS." TO SKYPORT THIS VIEW, SOURCE NOTED
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PRESENCE ON NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION OF CHIEF OF STAFF

O CHIN-U AND AIR FORCE CHIEF O KUK-YOL, WHO HAVE REPORTEDLY HELD TALKS WITH THEIR CHINESE COUNTER-PARTS IN ADDITION TO TALKS KIM HAS BEEN HOLDING. SOURCE ALSO OBSERVED THAT TENG IS COMMANDER OF CHINESE ARMY. KIM'S AGGRESSIVE COMMENTS ON KOREA AND HIS ALLUSIONS TO INDOCHINA ARE CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT HIS TRIP IS PRIMARILY FOR MILITARY BUSINESS.

3. SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT PRC SHARES KIM'S VIEW THAT US FORCES SHOULD LEAVE AS WELL AS CHINESE REASSURANCES OF ITS SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA. IN ADDITION, SOURCE SPECULATED THAT THEORY OF BIG FOUR POWER BALANCE IN NORTHEAST ASIA NO LONGER APPLIES, SINCE PEKING NOW WANTS US TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

4. ARTICLE COMMENTED BRIEFLY THAT ROKG IS STUDYING VARIOUS COUNTER-MEASURES IN VIEW OF ANALYSIS OF KIM'S VISIT.

5. COMMENT: THIS SUPERFICIAL ANALYSIS, SLANTING MANY FACTS AND DRAWING PREMATURE CONSLUSION FROM OTHERS, WAS APPARENTLY FED TO PRESS BY ROKG DURING LULL IN NEWS OF KIM'S VISIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING ALIVE PRESS ATTENTION TO VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASED THREAT FROM NORTH.
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